



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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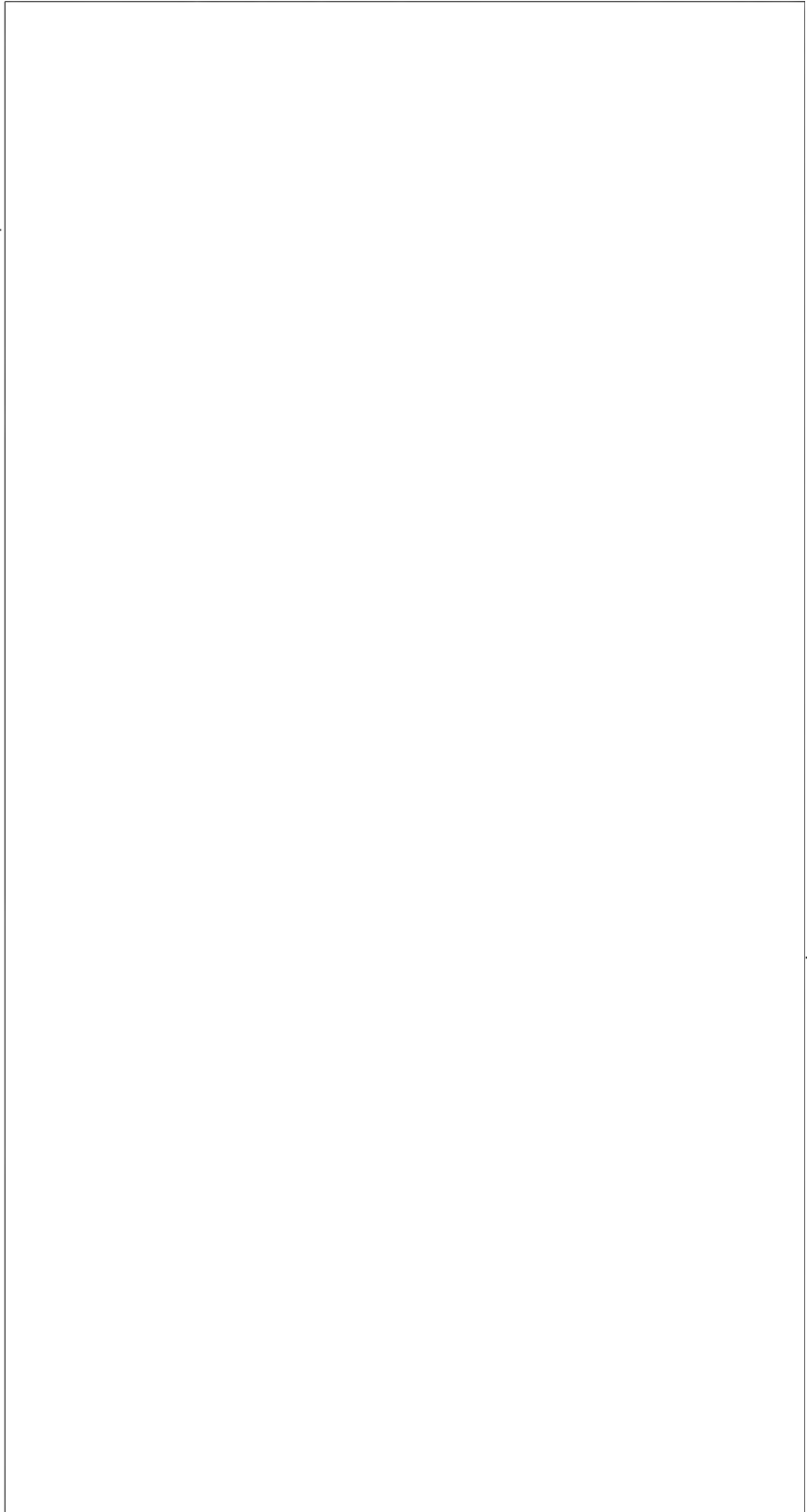
18 JANUARY 1966

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1. Vietnam

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2. North Vietnam

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3. Laos

As expected, the Communists are moving a significantly larger number of trucks through the Laos panhandle to South Vietnam than they were able to do during the dry season a year ago.

At that time, they moved only one or two trucks per day, on an average. Late last month, according to a recently interrogated Laotian Communist defector, 10-15 trucks per night were moving south along a recently completed route. The trucks took five days to cover 45 miles because of precautions against air attack.

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4. Indonesia

Some 5,000 students marched through the streets of Djakarta today despite an army ban. The demonstrations were aimed at "stupid ministers" in general and Foreign Minister Subandrio in particular.

Ambassador Green comments that the students are gaining a growing sense of confidence and power and are pushing well beyond the cautious attitudes of Nasution. Indeed, some student leaders see these demonstrations as a way to push the army into a stronger stand.

Army leaders are unhappy over the turn of events, although units on the scene made no attempt to break up today's demonstrations.

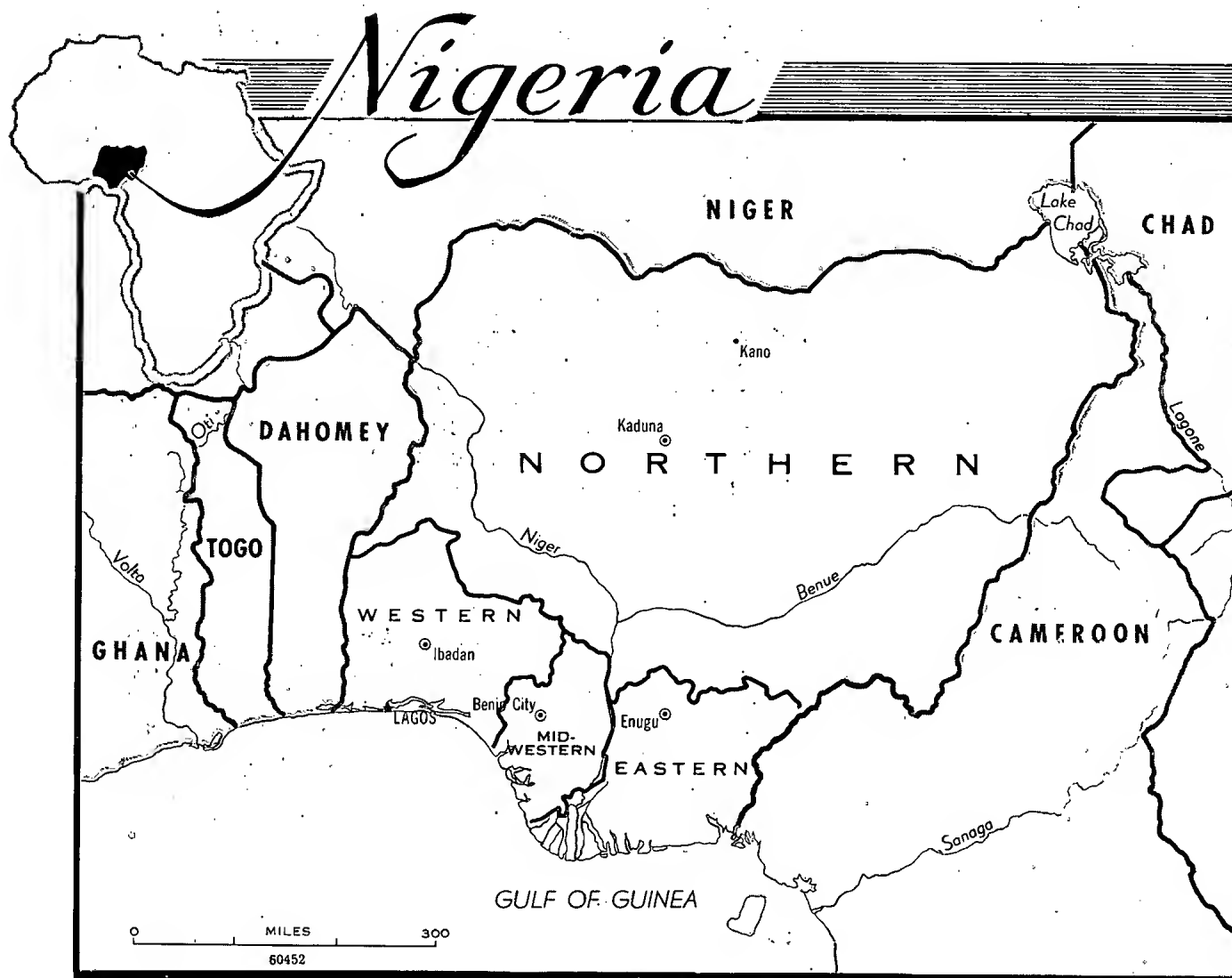
5. India

Indira Gandhi, who looks like an increasingly solid choice as India's next prime minister, has assured President Radakrishnan that she will not try to change India's foreign policies or do anything to antagonize India's friends in the West.

She could face early domestic trouble in Kerala State, where, reports say, the food situation is becoming critical. Local stocks are inadequate and deliveries from outside the state have been slow and irregular. This, of course, gives the Communists a ready issue for agitation against New Delhi.

6. Dominican Republic

Caamano is not budging. Garcia Go-doy today had another go at trying to persuade the balking rebel leader to leave voluntarily. The provisional president is not willing to use either the Dominican military or the Inter-American Peace Force to ensure that Caamano goes, feeling that such action would give the left a great and lasting propaganda weapon.



7. Nigeria

The country was calm today. Even Ibadan, where riots and bloodshed have been daily occurrences, lately, at last report was quiet.

General Ironsi has said he will set up a supreme military council to run the country, but has yet to announce its composition. He has been receiving pledges of loyalty from civilian organizations and military units. All units except those in Kaduna in the North and near Ibadan in the West now appear responsive to his direction.

There is still a danger that the army will disintegrate along tribal lines, and this could mean communal disorders and even civil war. The danger will increase if makeshift political arrangements are not soon hammered out between competing interests in the various regions.

8. Rhodesia

The rains have come, bringing at least temporary relief from the drought which has gripped the country for many weeks. If they keep up, a sizable part of this year's crops will be salvaged. This would be a real shot in the arm for the Smith regime and help offset the tighter gas rationing announced today.

9. Belgium

A new crisis is building up over the cost of medical care. The agreement which ended the bitter 1964 doctors' strike expired in December and doctors are increasing fees by one-quarter or more. This has incensed labor which is threatening a general strike if the rises are not rolled back.

This will further immobilize a Belgian Government already deeply divided by the long-standing linguistic battle between the French-speaking Walloons and Dutch-speakers in Flanders.

10. Common Market

The ministerial meeting in Luxembourg adjourned today in "complete deadlock." The ministers are to reconvene on 28 January, but prospects are not good in light of French intransigence so far. In fact, the French have reportedly let it be known that they would have "full freedom of action" by the end of the month if their demands are not met.

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